



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

**Date:** May 9, 2003

**To:** HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Subject:** Staff and Members of the Curfew Truancy Center Work Team will Provide an Update on the Center

**Recommendation:** Receive presentation.

**Previous Directives:** None

**Prepared or Submitted by:** Ken Dahl, Phone: x2622

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Dahl, Interim Commissioner of Health & Family Support

**Presenters in Committee:** Ken Dahl  
Work Team members

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

☒ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.

**Background/Supporting Information Attached**

The Minneapolis Curfew Truancy Center is an enforcement facility that operates under a Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Minneapolis Public Schools. The day-to-day operations of the Center are managed by the Minneapolis Urban League via a contractual relationship with the City. Located in Suite 15 at 330 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, the Century Plaza Building, the center is conveniently located for police and for center staff to coordinate with Hennepin County services as necessary. Management of the Center is coordinated through a work team comprised of staff from the Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, Hennepin County Children and Family Services, Hennepin County Attorney, and the Minneapolis Public Schools.

**Background**

The Curfew/Truancy Center was created in response to the findings of a 1993 Truancy Work Committee of Hennepin County that pointed to the close relationship between truancy and low achievement in school, dropping out of school, crime, substance abuse and teen pregnancy. In response, a Joint Session of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners, Minneapolis City Council, Minneapolis School Board, the Park and Recreation Board and the Robbinsdale School Board endorsed a number of recommendations regarding truancy. Among those recommendations were early identification and intervention, community awareness and a feasibility study for the creation of a student service center for receiving and processing truant youths who are picked up on the streets.

Consequently, in 1994 then Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman and Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton formed a leadership group to help coordinate and find resources to implement a full continuum of responses to truancy and the related issue of curfew. Named the Truancy Implementation Committee, this group identified action steps to implement this continuum and in March of 1995 jointly submitted a proposal to and was awarded a \$250,000 grant

from the Minnesota Department of Economic Security to renovate space for the proposed Curfew/Truancy Center. The Center opened in October, 1995.

### **Governance**

A Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis School District No.1, and Hennepin County defines oversight responsibilities for the Curfew/Truancy Center. That agreement is in effect until December 31, 2016. Members of the Oversight Board include the Mayor of Minneapolis, City Coordinator, Hennepin County Attorney, the Superintendent of Minneapolis Schools, the Hennepin County Administrator and a Hennepin County Juvenile Judge. The Oversight (Joint Powers) Board is expected to meet quarterly and by agreement must meet a minimum of once per year. The Board has specific powers to adopt an annual budget, review operational plans, oversee the work of the Work Team, to hire, enter into contracts, appoint committees, receive and disburse funds and hold property.

### **Other City Participation**

The City of Minneapolis Finance Officer serves as finance officer for the Board, and the Department of Health and Family Support manages City contracts directed to support the Center. In addition, Minneapolis police pick up and deliver curfew violators and truants to the center. Both departments have representatives on the center's work team. The City's direct outlay this year is \$114,000 in CDBG funds.

### **Operations**

The Curfew/Truancy Center represents a community alternative to bringing youth into police headquarters for minor violations. The center's annual budget is approximately \$300,000.

The Minneapolis Urban League operates the center on behalf of the joint powers, and a Work Team consisting of joint power representatives, the Minneapolis Urban League and other community partners oversees operations of the center and facilitates interagency cooperation. Day-to-day operations are managed collaboratively with the Minneapolis Schools and Hennepin County Community Services, the Hennepin County Attorney and Minneapolis Police Department.

Police officers pick up curfew or truancy violators and take them to the center where they are held until a parent or guardian can arrive to take them home or back to school. Parents and youth receive an initial assessment from facility staff and are then referred to appropriate service agencies. Minneapolis Public School staff is available to give limited counseling to truant youth. If no parent or guardian is available, youth are transported to Hennepin County's First Response, which provides emergency services. This includes crisis counseling and referral information when appropriate.

The program also includes a preventive follow-up system, which includes referral to community-based social service programs or Minneapolis Public school staff, and follow-up with the agency or person where the youth has been referred. Urban League staff, a liaison from the Minneapolis schools and a police officer work as a team to educate violators and their parents about the existing curfew and truancy laws and their respective penalties.

In 2001, Curfew/Truancy staff assessed 1,376 curfew violators and 1,612 truancy violators. Since the fall of 1995, 15,305 youth have been through the center.

### **Joint Powers (Oversight Board Members)**

R.T. Rybak, Mayor of Minneapolis  
John Moir, Coordinator, City of Minneapolis  
Amy Klobuchar, Hennepin County Attorney  
Sandra Vargas, Hennepin County Administrator  
Carol Johnson, Superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools  
Honorable Denise D. Reilly, Chief Judge, Hennepin County Juvenile Court

### **Ex-Officio Members**

Mike Opat, Chair, Hennepin County Board  
Robert Olson, Minneapolis Chief of Police  
Clarence Hightower, President & CEO, Minneapolis Urban League